

Message Text

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11

ACTION AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 OMB-01 STR-08 NSC-10

CIEP-02 AID-20 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-11 RSC-01 TRSE-00 L-03

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FM USINT ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0161

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ALGIERS 0397

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, AG

SUBJ: ALGERIAN WHEAT IMPORTS AND POLICY TOWARDS
INTERNATIONAL WHEAT CONVENTION

REF: (A) STATE 017175 (B) STATE 018699

PASS DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

1. MURRAY OF USDA WITH MINOFF SAW ON FEB. 15 OFFICIALS
OF OAIC, OFFICE ALGERIAN INTERPROFESSIONAL DU CEREALS, WHO
ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR WHEAT IMPORTS. ACCORDING TO BOURAS
HOCINE DELMI, SECRETARY GENERAL OF OAIC, WHO WILL REPRESENT
GOA AT LONDON MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL WHEAT AGREEMENT,
ALGERIA SUPPORTS EXTENSION OF FOOD AID CONVENTION. HOWEVER,
SUPPORT IS LUKEWARM AS GOA WOULD LIKE TO SEE A MUCH MORE
FAR REACHING WHEAT CONVENTION THAN IWC THAT WOULD INVOLVE
PRODUCTION, RESERVES AND PRICES.

2. ESSEMIANI DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF OAIC WAS CAUTIOUS ON CITING
ALGERIAN WHEAT IMPORT STATISTICS, BUT TOOK DOWN ALL QUESTIONS
AND PROMISED A DETAILED REPLY. HE DID SAY ALGERIA HAD
IMPORTED FROM THE U.S. 428,000 TONS OF WHEAT SOFT AND
DURUM IN THE PERIOD JULY - DECEMBER 1973. HE WOULD
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ONLY CONFIRM VERY LARGE ALGERIAN ORDERS FOR WHEAT DURING FISCAL

YEAR 1973-1974 AS DISTINCT FROM ACTUAL IMPORTS. HOWEVER, HE DID NOT DENY TOTAL FIGURE MIGHT BE IN MAGNITUDE OF 1.5 MILLION TONS. HE ALSO LEFT OPEN POSSIBILITY OF ADDITIONAL ORDERS BY OAIC FOR DELIVERY BY END OF JUNE 1974. (IN THIS CONNECTION GENERAL RAIN THROUGHOUT ALGERIA THIS WEEK MAY EASE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL WHEAT SHIPMENTS.)

3. ESSEMIANI CONCLUDED ONE AND ONE HALF HOUR MEETING BY EMPHASIZING USEFULNESS OF EXCHANGING CROP DATA; HE HOPED MURRAY WOULD RETURN AND IN MEANTIME HE WOULD RESPOND TO OUR QUESTIONS AND LOOKED FORWARD TO RECEIVING PERTINENT USDA REPORTS.
EAGLETON

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